

JAMES GORDON KENNETH,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE DUKE'S MOTO.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE WIFE.
WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—ITALIAN OPERA—TROYA.
CAFE KENNE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—MILNER'S
HUNTER—LOVE—LOVE.
NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Broadway.—THE DUKE'S
MOTO—LOVE—LOVE.
BOWERY THEATRE, Broadway.—THE DUKE'S
MOTO—LOVE—LOVE.
BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—NEW
TODAY AND WIT. CO. NUT AND MONIE WARREN.
AS ST. LOUIS. FAINT HEART—TWO L. Afternoon and
evening.
BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanic's Hall, 472 Broad-
way.—ENTERTAINING SONGS, DANCES, &c.—11 AM
& 8 PM.
WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—ENTERTAINING
SONGS, DANCES, &c.—11 AM & 8 PM.
THE NEW IDEAL, 45 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES,
BALLOONS, &c.—11 AM & 8 PM.
AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—BALLET,
FANTASY, DANCES, &c.
MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—ENTERTAINING
SONGS, DANCES, &c.—11 AM & 8 PM.
HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ENTERTAINING
SONGS, DANCES, &c.—11 AM & 8 PM.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, June 2, 1863.

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE COUNTRY.

Advertisements for the WEEKLY HERALD must be handed in before ten o'clock every Wednesday evening. Its circulation among the enterprising mechanics, farmers, merchants, manufacturers and gentlemen throughout the country is increasing very rapidly. Advertisements inserted in the WEEKLY HERALD will thus be seen by a large portion of the active and energetic people of the United States.

THE REBEL MILITARY SITUATION.

The map on the first page of this morning's paper gives at a glance the present actual boundaries of the Southern confederacy. Every frontier position of importance held by the enemy is indicated by the rebel ensign, and the line of arrows which intersects these various points and encircles the whole shows the extreme limit of territory now held by the rebel armies.

From Madison, in Arkansas, just west of the Mississippi, and opposite the southern boundary of Tennessee, the headquarters of General Marmaduke, the line crosses the Mississippi some way below Memphis, passes through Northern Mississippi south of Corinth, turns northward so as to include Bragg's headquarters at Shelbyville, in Tennessee; going to the eastward safely south of Murfreesboro, near Sparta, in Eastern Tennessee, it again goes northward, by Buckner, at Knoxville, to Monticello, in Kentucky—the headquarters of Fegram; thence eastward into Virginia, and again to the north to Staunton and Mount Jackson, where General Jones holds the outposts of Rebeldom almost as far north as Washington. Thence the line runs by Fredericksburg, Yorktown, Suffolk, Newbern, Wilmington, Charleston and Savannah, and so down the Atlantic coast, crosses Florida near St. Augustine, winds along the Gulf coast, and reaches the Mississippi between Baton Rouge and Port Hudson.

This is a territorial summary of Rebeldom. Not a single State is held entirely by the rebels. Narrow as the limits are, when compared with the magnificent dreams of the Southern leaders, they are in a fair way to be much narrower; for by the capture of Vicksburg we render Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas untenable to the Southern forces, and compel them to relinquish the greater part of Mississippi.

So the Southern empire grows small by degrees and beautifully less.

THE SITUATION.

The latest reports from the scene of operations around Vicksburg are to the effect that three assaults had been made by our forces on the rebel stronghold, in all of which we were repulsed. The last assault was made by General Sherman, with twenty thousand men, in which we lost six hundred killed and a large number wounded. Our outer line is within one hundred yards of the rebel works. Our sharpshooters prevent the rebels from working their guns. The rebel works in the rear of the city are far more formidable than those in front.

General Joe Johnston is in the neighborhood of Jackson with about fifteen thousand men, and is reported to be short of provisions and ammunition. General Grant has taken 8,400 prisoners and 54 pieces of artillery.

The main fortifications of Vicksburg consist of a chain of forts, about eight hundred yards apart, connected by deep intrenchments, and extending for seven miles.

Despatches from headquarters in the battle field near Vicksburg, dated on the 23d, which we publish to-day, give some thrilling accounts of the progress of the siege up to that time. The fight was evidently a fierce and sanguinary one, involving heavy loss on both sides. At one time, while attacking the outer works, our troops were within twenty-five feet of the enemy.

Telegrams from the headquarters of General Hooker state that a flag of truce was sent across the Rappahannock on Sunday. The rebel officers then stated that General Grant had been repulsed at Vicksburg, but refused to allow any Richmond papers to be seen or brought across the river. Where they got this information is difficult to tell.

A despatch from Louisville, dated June 1, based on information received from Murfreesboro, Tenn., May 30, announces that the rebel General Marmaduke is reported to have captured Helena, Arkansas, and a regiment of negro soldiers, whom, together with the white officers commanding them, he has hanged. The direct route of communication with Helena is via Cairo and Memphis. The distance from Helena to Memphis is but about ninety miles. There is a regular line of mail steamers plying between the two points, leaving Helena every evening at five o'clock, and arriving at Memphis at daylight the following

morning. In addition government vessels are constantly passing both points in going to and returning from Vicksburg. From Memphis there is now telegraphic communication with all points in the North. Were there any foundation in the despatch the intelligence would have been received from Memphis on the day following the reported fall of the town, or before the 30th ult. As no such intelligence has been received through this direct route, the whole story may be safely considered a hoax.

The steamer Sheldrake, from Havana, which arrived at this port last evening, has brought us highly important news from Puebla, if all the details can be fully relied upon. According to these advices the French have ultimately succeeded in the capture of Puebla with its commander-in-chief (General Ortega), a large number of inferior officers and thousands of soldiers. The garrison artillery, by the same accounts, had also fallen into their hands. It is said that immediately on the arrival of his heavy siege artillery, General Forey opened a tremendous bombardment on the city, and on the 17th ult. ordered a general assault. The garrison, however, made but little resistance, and the whole force, commander, officers, soldiers and artillery, unconditionally surrendered. This may be all very true; but we may at least wait a few days for some confirmation of such extraordinary news. We give full particulars in another part of to-day's paper.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Our very latest advices by the Jura, at Father Point, state that the bullion in the Bank of England had decreased by \$123,500 in the week. The King of Prussia had sent a royal message to the Chamber of Deputies, advising members to modify their course towards the Cabinet ministers. A member asserted that the ministers had misinformed the King, and moved that the message be referred to a committee on an address to his Majesty. This motion was adopted.

The letter of our Havana correspondent, detailing the progress of matters in Havana, will be found to be very interesting to all who are interested in the island of Cuba.

We publish to-day a brief account of the highly important geographical discovery recently made by the adventurous English explorers, Captains Speke and Grant. This short resume of facts is accompanied by a finely engraved map, showing the supposed course taken by the expedition. Our object has been to condense all the most important facts relative to this great scientific triumph, and the plain statement we give to-day, in connection with the map we publish, will, we hope, be of some interest to our readers.

In pursuance of an order from the Postmaster General, a commission of special agents of the Post Office Department was to have been held yesterday at the Post Office, for the purpose of effecting some changes in our postal system; but as only a few of those composing the commission had arrived in town the meeting was postponed until this morning. It is understood that the principal business of the commission will consist in changing the locations of the distributing offices in the interior of the country.

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen yesterday a communication was received from City Inspector Delavan, stating that a large number of the laborers employed in cleaning the streets have refused to work until they are paid the arrearages due them by the late contractor, and that unless their wrongs are speedily redressed, and their families thus saved from destitution, other laborers will probably stop work, and the public health be jeopardized. A resolution from the Councilmen requesting the Comptroller to confer with the assignee of the Hackley contract for the purpose of obtaining his consent to pay the men was agreed to. A resolution to revoke all licenses for the storage of gunpowder was adopted. General Sickles was granted the use of the Governor's Room to receive the congratulations of his fellow citizens. An ordinance appropriating an additional \$500,000 for the relief of the families of volunteers was adopted. After the transaction of some other business the Board adjourned. The future meetings will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at one o'clock.

In the Board of Councilmen last evening Mr. Webster offered a resolution directing the Comptroller to confer with the assignee of the Hackley street cleaning contract for the purpose of obtaining his consent to pay the sub-contractors and laborers, and if such consent is obtained then the Comptroller is to draw his warrant for the amount paid out for that purpose and deduct it from the sum due the assignee by the city. Adopted. Mr. O'Brien offered a resolution directing the Comptroller to pay the laborers who have been engaged in cleaning the streets under the direction of the City Inspector. A long and animated debate ensued, during which the President and several other members, in speaking against the resolution, said that the City Inspector had no legal right to undertake the work, but if it were really necessary to pay the men an amendment had better be adopted, directing the Comptroller, in the absence of any appropriation for the purpose, to pay them out of the contingencies of the City Inspector's office, and, if necessary, his salary also. The amendment was lost, and the subject was then dropped. Mr. Sanford offered a resolution directing the Street Commissioner to remove forthwith the wooden buildings known as the Park Barracks, in consequence of their not being now required for the purpose for which they were originally erected, but are now used for the unlawful and arbitrary incarceration of our citizens by an irresponsible body of men purporting to be a provost guard. Adopted without debate. A resolution was adopted requesting the members of the Board to assemble at eleven o'clock this (Tuesday) morning, for the purpose of waiting on the Mayor to solicit him to convene the Board of Health. A resolution of concurrence was adopted tendering the use of the Governor's Room to Brigadier General Daniel E. Sickles, in which to receive the congratulations of his friends. After transacting some business of a routine nature the Board adjourned until this morning at eleven o'clock.

The Tammany Society met at their headquarters last evening, for the purpose of installing their new Grand Sachem. The session was very long and very merry. The old democratic War Horse, Elijah F. Purdy, was installed Grand Sachem with all the honors, and made a suitable speech in return for the compliment. The society had not adjourned at ten o'clock last evening.

The June term of the Court of General Sessions commenced yesterday. Recorder Hoffman on the bench. The panel of Grand Jurors was called, when, a quorum not being present, they were discharged until this morning at eleven o'clock. Twenty-nine prisoners, fifteen of them being bail cases, were arraigned at the bar on indictments for various offenses, three of which were for murder.

In the operations of General Grant and Admiral Porter, in the vicinity of Vicksburg, they captured eight thousand five hundred prisoners and one hundred and nineteen cannon. The great Chicago Ship Canal Convention will be opened to-day.

The Sportsmen's State Convention will commence to-day in Buffalo, and continue three days. There will be trials of skill at shooting and at fly throwing.

FIRST DAY.—Off-hand rifle shooting, with open

sights, for a prize of \$25. Pistol shooting for a sweepstakes of \$5 for each entry made. Rifle shooting, with telescope sights, for \$100. Rifle and pistol shooting, open to all.

SECOND DAY.—Fly throwing with single hand, \$25. State trap shooting, with sides chosen on the ground.

THIRD DAY.—The Forester Club of Buffalo will give three prizes of \$100 for the three best shots, the trial to be according to rules laid down in the programme. The citizens of Buffalo will offer a prize medal, to be shot for at ten double birds, one man from each club to be admitted to contest.

The annual dinner will be given on Thursday evening, at which time Judge Clinton will deliver an address, and the prizes will be delivered.

The venerable Gen. Cass has recovered his health, left Newport, and gone to his home in Detroit.

United States Commissioner J. B. Henry yesterday committed John Holland, of the American ship Victoria, on a charge of stabbing William S. Jenkins, mate of that vessel, with a knife.

The Second Colored regiment of Massachusetts has now between five and six hundred men, and Gov. Andrew is exceedingly rejoiced thereof. It is said that he did not take as much pains to receive and honor the returned white soldiers who had been fighting for the country as he did to honor the departure of the black soldiers. Gov. Andrew has his likes and his dislikes.

The following are the names of the loyal State officers who were elected in Eastern Virginia on the 28th ult.:

Governor—F. H. Peirpont.
Lieutenant Governor—L. C. F. Cowper.
Attorney General—J. B. Howard.
Major General Butler was in Boston on Friday last, and left for Lowell in the afternoon.

General Humphrey Marshall, the Kentucky fat man, has been arrested for disloyalty to the rebel confederacy, and sent to Richmond. It is said that Jeff. Davis wants to send him North, in exchange for Vallandigham.

According to the City Inspector's report, there were 347 deaths in the city during the past week—a decrease of 90 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 7 more than occurred during the corresponding week last year. The recapitulation table gives 4 deaths of alcoholism, 83 of diseases of the brain and nerves, 1 of the generative organs, 8 of the heart and blood vessels, 110 of the lungs, throat, &c.; 3 of old age, 19 of diseases of the skin and eruptive fevers, 8 premature births, 56 of diseases of the stomach, bowels and other digestive organs; 26 of uncertain cause and general fevers, 4 of diseases of the urinary organs, 23 from violent causes, and 2 unknown. There were 208 natives of the United States, 11 of England, 97 of Ireland, 5 of Scotland, 22 of Germany, and the balance of various foreign countries.

The stock market was active and buoyant yesterday morning, and prices were all considerably higher. In the afternoon there was some reaction, but not in any case equal to the advance, and at the close everything was firm again. Gold rose as high as one and one-half per cent, and closed at five P. M. at about 147 1/2. Exchange fluctuated between 161 and 165, without much activity. Money was easy; call loans 5 1/2 per cent. The bank statement shows an increase of \$500,000 in loans, and a decrease of \$1,394,507 in deposits and \$302,231 in specie.

The demand for cotton was more active yesterday, and middling advanced to 52c a bale. There were heavier sales of breadstuffs effected at generally higher prices. The business in provisions was active only inlard, which was a trifle higher, other articles having been depressed. The demand for groceries was mainly confined to sugars and tea, which were firm. Whiskey was heavy at 44 1/2c a case. Tallow was active. Calcutta mixed was in more request, but lower. Moderate freight quotations were effected.

The Rebel General Lee's Movements—Another Scare in Washington.

The mysterious and threatening movements of the rebel army of Virginia have created the suspicion that it is the intention of General Lee to repeat immediately his aggressive campaign of last summer. Under this idea we are assured there is another great scare in Washington. According to our information the Cabinet are really apprehensive that, getting round or getting over the superior army of General Hooker, the terrible rebel General Lee may not only invade Maryland again, but that, more successful than he was the last time, he may possibly be able this time to get into Washington by way of Frederick city or Baltimore.

The deplorable failure of General Hooker at Chancellorsville, on his own chosen ground, against a rebel army not more than one-half his own in point of numbers, appears, from all that we can learn, to have completely demoralized the administration in regard to the further prosecution of the war in Virginia. In the first place, General Hooker's rashness placed him in a position where the house in front of which he was standing was knocked to pieces by the enemy's shells, and he was prostrated by one of the falling timbers, and lay for some time in a helpless and doubtful condition in the very crisis of the battle. Otherwise, perhaps, he might have seen his opportunity, and by sending up an unemployed army corps at hand to the support of General Sickles he might have cut the rebel army in twain, and utterly routed it in that Saturday's fight. In the next place, in recovering from his fall, it seems that General Hooker did not recover his balance of mind, but that from this unfortunate accident, and from the breaking of his lines by the enemy, he saw no safety except in a retreat, when by a general engagement at any time from Sunday morning to Monday evening he might have obtained a decisive victory.

Rash when he should have been prudent, and timid when he should have been bold, we can hardly wonder that General Hooker's capabilities to resist an advance by General Lee are doubted by our supreme military authorities at Washington. They are afraid of him; but they are afraid to make a change, and they know not what to do. The reinstatement of McClellan would instantly scatter all doubts and misgivings to the winds, and put the Army of the Potomac again on the trail of the rebel army; but this sensible and patriotic proceeding would involve so much of wounded pride at Washington and partisan humiliation that it is not to be thought of. What, then, is to be done? We have no doubt that it is the intention of General Lee to resume offensive operations. Action with him has become a necessity. He cannot afford to wait the convenience of our military authorities. He must do something in the way of a diversion to strengthen his confederates in the Southwest, where General Grant has driven them to the wall, even if nothing more can be done by the rebel army of Virginia in support of Vicksburg. But if Gen. Lee, by a flank movement towards Washington and Maryland, can so frighten our federal authorities as to induce a recall of the Army of the Potomac, and a general concentration around Washington and along the Maryland border of all our available forces within a circuit of five or six hundred miles, while at the same time Jeff. Davis is sending off to the Southwest his reinforcements from Virginia to Joe Johnston by thousands, a great deal will be accomplished towards arresting our victorious progress in the West, as well as to strengthen the rebellion in the East.

Some designs of this sort are doubtless entertained by General Lee; and from the scare which is reported to exist at Washington we should conjecture that his whole army is close again upon the old battle field of Bull Run. Meantime in the conscription law the administration has had the power so to strengthen our armies in every quarter as to render them absolutely irresistible, East and West. But the administration has hesitated, and still hesitates, to resort to the conscription in advance of some encouraging victory or another disastrous defeat; and so we presume that while the President and his Cabinet are waiting for the news of the capture of Vicksburg they have resolved to risk another grand rebel foraging foray into Maryland, rather than boldly and energetically exercise the powers which Congress has placed in their hands to sweep this rebellion from the field.

These are humiliating reflections; but we cannot avoid them. Where is the remedy against this shuffling, timid and temporizing policy of the government? We see no remedy except in a reconstruction of the Cabinet of strong, consistent and harmonious war men, excluding all peddling and tricky Presidential politicians, all miserable political cliques, and all such Marplots in the conduct of the war as the Wades and Chandlers and their impertinent instructions. But let the President boldly meet the demands of the crisis in this way, and, volunteers or conscripts, there will be no difficulty in reinforcing the army to the extent, if needed, of another million of men.

The Case of Vallandigham—Danger to the Government, and How to Meet It.

It is stated that Jeff. Davis has offered permission to Vallandigham to remain at large in the Southern States if he will take the oath of allegiance to the confederacy; but if not, not. Vallandigham, of course, will not take the oath, and he will be thus reduced to one of two courses—either he will recross our lines under a flag of truce and be sent to Fort Warren, according to the intimation he received from Gen. Rosecrans, or he will be permitted to escape from the confederacy to Canada by way of Nassau. He might in that event take up his abode on the frontier just opposite Ohio, and be enabled to hold frequent communication with the democracy of his State. The probability would be that he would get the nomination for Governor, and, if elected next fall, he would be sure to find means to cross over, and then he would be sure to bid defiance to the President and to Burnside; and it would be impossible to take him out of the State unless by producing civil war in the Western States.

Such are the perilous or humiliating consequences to which the first wrong step invariably leads. No good can be derived from the course pursued by General Burnside, through the influences of Chase and the orders of the War Department, and it may be productive of incalculable evil. It will make a martyr of Vallandigham, and be the means of elevating him to positions of honor which otherwise he never would have attained. But it will be sure to damage the government. The people, in their elections, have already expressed their disapprobation of these arbitrary and unconstitutional arrests in the loyal States, and it was not prudent to continue them. The last Congress, sensible of the current of public opinion which had set in against the administration, passed an act, which was signed by the President and became the law of the land, prohibiting all such military arrests and trials in future, and directing that political offenders should be dealt with by the civil law and have a speedy trial by jury. In the face of this law Vallandigham was arrested, at dead of night, by a file of soldiers, in a peaceful, loyal State, where martial law had not been proclaimed, where the habeas corpus had not been suspended, and, being carried off to another State, was there tried and sentenced by court martial. Such proceedings have not only no warrant of law, but are directly contrary to law and the constitution, and have not even the merit of expediency to recommend them. They are extremely dangerous, and the sooner the advisers of the President take the back track the better for themselves and for the peace and harmony of the loyal States.

Let not excessive confidence in the armies now under its control influence the administration to a series of fatal steps which must terminate at last in a bloody anarchy. In 1818 France was more prosperous than it had ever been before. Louis Philippe, King of the French, false to the people who elected him, and false to his own interests, blindly relied on his new fortifications around Paris, which he deemed impregnable, and on a powerful, well organized army, to enable him to trample upon popular rights, as he did by the advice of evil counsellors. This "king of the barricades," as he was called, prevented first the assemblage of political meetings in opposition to his policy. The leaders of the opposition then proceeded to get around the royal edicts by announcing public dinners. These, too by the advice of a perverse cabinet, were prevented at the point of the bayonet. The people, accustomed to a representative government and to freedom of discussion for a period of eighteen years, would stand it no longer. It is the last feather on the overloaded camel which breaks his back. Louis Philippe violated the constitution; he broke their charter. The patience of the French people gave way under this last act of their king, and there were plenty of reckless desperadoes ready for their own purposes to spur them on. After three days' fighting in the streets of Paris, notwithstanding his large standing army and fortifications, the Bourbon was compelled to seek safety in flight, under the disguise of a wig and a sailor's jacket. The revolution was complete.

The English, from whom the French in modern times borrowed the idea of public discussion and representative popular government, have been always extremely tenacious of the right of free speech, even to revolution and civil war. Nor will their kindred of America ever endure its infringement; and whoever advises the President to sanction the overthrow of the right by bayonets in his mortal enemy and the enemy of the country. A republican Anglo-Saxon government, in peace or war, can never be carried on upon the same principles as those which regulate the despoticisms of Austria and Russia. Let not the President, therefore, permit the administration to put him in the wrong. There are evil men who will be sure to take advantage of the error and inflame the passions of the people; and Heaven only knows what may follow. The chief organs of the republican party are compelled to condemn the military arrest, trial and punishment of Vallandigham. Let the President take the wind out of the sails of Vallandigham by issuing an order cancelling the sentence and permitting him to return to Ohio at once.

This would also take the wind out of the sails of Chase, and make the President exceedingly popular. The prisoner set free would do far less harm than he would if he were in duress at Fort Warren, at large beyond the enemy's lines, or in Canada, an exile in sight of the shores of his native State. Let the bill of rights guaranteed by the amendments to the constitution be sacredly respected, and all will be well. There is no necessity for their violation, and, after the warnings which have been borne to the ears of the administration, to persist in such a course can be regarded as nothing short of that madness which ever precedes the destruction of its victims. The financial condition of the country is highly prosperous, and the final success of the federal arms and the restoration of the Union are only questions of time, if ordinary prudence guide the national councils. Let not our hopes, therefore, be blighted by any insane policy calculated to foment civil war at the North. The wisest plan which the President can pursue is to cut loose from the radicals, stand by the constitution and throw himself upon the people, who will enthusiastically sustain him in a conservative policy. By such a course, in view of the disorganized and confused state of parties, broken into antagonistic factions, Mr. Lincoln would not only save the republic, but become the popular candidate for the succession, and stand a better chance of election than any competitor whose name has yet appeared before the public.

Hooker as a General.

When General Hooker was before the Congressional committee sundry questions were put to him which accomplished what they were intended to, and brought out, not the truth, but General Hooker. He was purposely given an opportunity to say to the country, from a high standpoint, whatever he had to say about the war. He was asked about Yorktown. Upon that subject his opinions were positive, and after some preliminary queries he was squarely requested to state what he would have done at Yorktown had he then been in command of the army. He cited the battle of Williamsburg as the indication of what he would have done. He invited the country to judge of his abilities by that battle. There, he said, he had advanced with his single division against a line of works stronger than the line at Yorktown. Here is a military opinion of the relative strength of those two lines. Can it be credited that the finest army in the United States is now under the command of a man who is such a tyro in military matters as not to know which of those two lines was the stronger, and not to know that this statement was absurdly false? Well, Gen. Hooker advanced, and this is what came of it: he fought all day, lost seventeen hundred men, and failed—disastrously, miserably failed—to carry the position. That is what he would have done at Yorktown—that is the battle he desires to be known by. With all deference to those who are wise in war, we are of the opinion that any one could do that. Yet such was in reality Gen. Hooker's part in the great battle by which he first became widely known. Moreover, his battle had been fought in defiance of orders, losses heavily, and does not accomplish his object, it is, or ought to be, a serious matter. Charges were accordingly made out against Gen. Hooker by the proper persons, and he was in a fair way to be dismissed the service, or worse. But in the meantime the battle had been trumpeted as a great victory, and Gen. Hooker was a very large hero. How would it look to the country—a battle had been gained—Gen. Hooker helped to gain it, and he was to be dismissed the service. That would never do. So the General's violation of orders—his failure and his heavy loss—only helped to make his fame. Thus ended Hooker's first notorious essay as a general.

He made another nearly upon the anniversary of the first. Near Falmouth, he had, as our readers know, a magnificent army. He said it was "the finest on the planet." In front of him was a rebel army half the size of his own. Gen. Hooker had—and knew that he had—two to one for every man under Lee. His first act was to throw away this advantage in a great measure by the division of his force. He divided his army and put an interval of ten miles between the two parts. He next put the enemy in that interval, covered on one face by their intrenchments, and his strategy amounted to this: Under the delusion that he was about to operate on the enemy's rear he lessened his effective strength by a whole corps, and made the parts of his army act separately against a central force. As was foreseen, and as events have proven, these parts of his army were fought in detail, and absolute annihilation was only prevented by his great superiority in numbers, his hasty retreat and the stubborn fight of the Sixth corps. For the merits of this movement strategically it is claimed that it nullified the strong position on the heights behind Fredericksburg, and compelled the enemy to come out into the field and fight. But it is very easy to make your enemy come out of his stronghold when you put yourself in a position where he sees that you are at his mercy—and that is the way that Hooker brought Lee out.

General Hooker marched and manoeuvred for four days, occupied that time in his advance against the enemy, and then the enemy fought an offensive battle in a field of which they knew every square inch. He chose his position, rested in it, and was beaten there without a battle. For, if his strategy is bad, his grand tactics are a great deal worse, and so far as any direction or guidance from General Hooker is implied the battle was not fought at all. Surprised by the attack on one flank when he had prepared against it on the other, he seems to have become bewildered, and lost all comprehension of the state of affairs. Indeed, Hooker seemed to have placed himself at the head of one corps only, and had no idea of the great army under his command. Different corps fought without any unity of purpose whatever, and he who should have governed all overlooked only an isolated struggle, until he was knocked down by a post. Less than one-third of his force was taken into battle, and with six corps under his command he did not maintain so stout a fight as General Sedgwick did on the next day with only one. General Hooker even expected assistance from Sedgwick in his fight on Sunday, May 3. Lee had sixty-four thousand men, and Hooker, with over a hundred thousand, was on Lee's "rear." And, while with a hundred thousand he fought sixty-four thousand, he expected that Sedgwick, with a single corps and one division of another, should storm Marye's Hill, march ten miles and come

to his assistance. Evidently this great strategist and fighter has a limited confidence in his own abilities.

Life is now represented as on the march for offensive operations—perhaps for invasion. He can see very well that an army under General Hooker is not a serious obstacle, and he will assist it as he did the army under Pope. When Pope was beaten, and all in disorder, McClellan was repulsed, and then ensued the Maryland campaign, full of disaster to the rebels, and closed by the battle of Antietam. But here also Lee feels secure. Under no circumstances can McClellan be recalled. After all that has taken place it is a moral impossibility for the President to put that man at the head of the army. It is only against Hooker or some newer experiment that Lee must struggle, and he advances with confidence.

STRANGE VAGABOND OF POLITICALS.—THE PEACE COPPERHEAD CONVENTION TO-MORROW.—To-morrow will be held in this city the Copperhead Convention in the interest of peace, called in an irregular manner by two democrats from every Senatorial district of the State. It is worthy of remark that the radical journals of this city do not offer any opposition to the meeting. On the contrary, for the last two or three days, they have been giving it support in a left handed way. One reason for this probably is that the ultimate objects of the negroheads and the copperheads are the same. Both want peace and a final separation by the line which is the boundary between the free and slaveholding States. Greeley has said, during the spring, that if the South should not be whipped by the 1st of May it would be better to give the business up. The copperheads say we can never whip the South, and they too want to give it up.

But there is another motive which influences the conduct of the radical press. They have entered upon an electioneering campaign, and are making preparations to secure a favorable result. Their object in taking the copperheads under their patronage and encouraging them to go ahead is to drive home the wedge which is already dividing the democratic party. If it can be completely split, then the radicals will have no trouble in carrying their point and breaking up the majority which resulted in the election of Seymour last fall. It is worthy of remark that the organs of the negroheads no longer call the copperheads rebels; and the Tribune even says that Fernando Wood is not a disunionist. This goes to show that there is a sympathy and a connection of some kind between the two factions, and that they are playing into each other's hands. Time will soon develop their plans, and then we shall see how the pieces stand on the political chess-board, and who it is that is going to get checkmated.

ARMING THE NEGRO.—WHOLESALE MURDER OF RETALIATION BY THE REBELS.—A despatch from Murfreesboro, received by way of St. Louis, announces the taking of Helena, Arkansas, by General Marmaduke, and the capture and hanging of an entire regiment of negro soldiers, with their white officers. It should be premised, however, that the report coming to us by this route is not to be accepted as all reliable. The taking of Helena is of course quite possible, as Marmaduke was known to be concentrating a large force for its capture. But there are reasons for discrediting the perpetration of such an atrocity as that ascribed to him. In the first place, it would lead to retaliatory measures that in the end must tell worse against the South than the North, and, secondly, the negroes reported to be thus disposed of would be of more value to the confederacy living than dead. Of course there is no knowing what a general of fanatical spirit might be induced to do in the exasperation caused by his being called to confront in the field for the first time this hitherto despised race. The fact that such a wholesale act of vengeance is, under any circumstances, possible, is, however, sufficient to inspire disquietude. The reported appointment of John C. Fremont to the command of the black troops in South Carolina shows that the experiments that have been made in the raising of negro regiments, at the pressing instances of the radicals, are becoming part of the settled military policy of the government, and it will therefore become pledged to protect these troops in the event of the rebels attempting to carry out their threats. It is useless, however, to speculate further on this subject until we have a confirmation of the Murfreesboro despatch. It will then assume an aspect which will necessitate careful consideration and discussion.

THE CONSCRIPTION.—WHAT IS THE WAR DEPARTMENT ABOUT?—Every day, on an average, a regiment is leaving the Army of the Potomac, and the result will soon be that Hooker will be too weak for vigorous offensive operations. Yet the War Department is inactive, and nothing is being done to supply the places of the troops returning home. Mr. Stanton is as helpless as a child. If a spouting politician like Vallandigham talks nonsense, or if a man like Ives gets hold of some of the secrets of the government without any fault of his and blabs about them in barrooms, the Secretary of War displays uncommon vigor, and he is brave as a black bear in his den. But when a true difficulty presents itself—when any task worthy of a statesman or even of a man of business is to be accomplished—then we find Mr. Stanton an imbecile, who does not know how to deal with the matter in hand, and he allows the ship to drift with the wind and tide, like a bewildered, frightened mariner in a storm who gives himself up for lost. The last Congress passed a conscription bill to fill up the vacancies in the ranks of our armies, thinned by battle and sickness and by the expiration of the term of service of great numbers of soldiers. But the War Department, instead of having the new troops drafted and drilled, ready to recruit and reinforce the army, have not yet taken the preliminary steps, though we are in the month of June, and only four weeks remain for the summer campaign. Where is all this energy?

CRUISING LETTER OF MR. ETHERIDGE.—In another page we publish a singular letter of Emerson Etheridge, formerly member of Congress from Tennessee, and late Clerk of the House of Representatives. It is an acute and masterly satire on the conduct of the war, and, as well done that the reader must frequently pause to ascertain whether it is irony or not. No apparently sincere is the eulogy, when it turns out, after a moment's reflection, to be bitter sarcasm. The letter hits all round, but particularly dissects, with a keen knife, the abolition measures that have been adopted, and the general mismanagement of the war.